

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1           1.       (Currently Amended) A method of merging display items in an encoded  
2       format, comprising:  
3                   providing, in the encoded format, a plurality of display items to be merged;  
4                   examining the display items on the basis of item priority;  
5                   defining a target item having a target area; ~~and~~  
6                   merging the display items in the target area according to item priority to  
7       produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality of display  
8       items; and  
9                   aligning each of the display items relative to n pixel boundaries within the  
10       target area.

1           2.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein the encoded data associated  
2       with the display items to be merged comprises control data and color data.

1           3.       (Original)     The method of claim 2, wherein the control and color data  
2       comprises at least some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an end of  
3       block code.

1           4.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein examining the display items  
2 comprises examining a display item of highest priority and examining display items of lower  
3 priority to completely fill in the target item as a function of transparency of the highest  
4 priority display item.

1           5.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein examining the display items  
2 comprises examining a display item of highest priority (overlying display item) and  
3 examining underlying display items of lower priority at positions where control data of the  
4 overlying display item indicates transparency.

1           6.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein examining the display items  
2 comprises skipping data at particular locations of lower priority display items when  
3 corresponding locations of higher priority display items are non-transparent.

1           7.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein merging the display items  
2 further comprises using transparency control data associated with the display items so that  
3 data associated with the display items is read only once.

1           8.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein the target area associated with  
2 the target item extends from a leftmost pixel of a leftmost display item to a rightmost pixel of  
3 a rightmost display item for the plurality of display items being merged, the target area  
4 further comprising padding.

1           9.       (Original)     The method of claim 1, wherein the display items being  
2 merged comprise up to five ranges within the target area, the five ranges comprising left  
3 padding of multiples of n pixels, a transition defined across n pixels from the padding to the  
4 display item to be merged, mid-object pixels, a transition defined across n pixels from the  
5 display item to be merged to right padding, and right padding of multiples of n pixels.

1           10.      (Canceled)

1           11.      (Original)     The method of claim 1, further comprising shifting data  
2 associated with a display item to be merged into a position within the target area to facilitate  
3 merging.

1           12.      (Original)     The method of claim 1, further comprising producing tokens  
2 using the encoded data associated with the display items to be merged, wherein merging the  
3 display items further comprises merging the display items using the tokens.

1           13.      (Original)     The method of claim 12, wherein the tokens represent counts  
2 of repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the display items to be merged.

1           14.      (Original)     The method of claim 12, wherein the display items are  
2 prioritized to define an arrangement of overlaying display items and underlying display  
3 items, further wherein the tokens are modified into smaller tokens by underlying display  
4 items depending on tokens found in an overlaying item.

1           15.    (Original)    The method of claim 12, wherein the tokens are produced by  
2    decoding the encoded data associated with the display items to be merged.

1           16.    (Original)    The method of claim 15, further comprising re-compressing the  
2    tokens associated with the target item into the encoded format.

1           17.    (Currently Amended) A system for merging display items in an encoded  
2    format, comprising:  
3                    a memory defining a target item having a target area and configured to store a  
4    plurality of display items to be merged in the encoded format; and  
5                    a processor coupled to the memory, the processor examining the display items  
6    on the basis of item priority and merging the display items in the target area according to  
7    item priority to produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality  
8    of display items, wherein the processor aligns each of the display items relative to n pixel  
9    boundaries within the target area.

1           18.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the encoded data associated  
2    with the display items to be merged comprises control data and color data.

1           19.    (Original)    The system of claim 18, wherein the control and color data  
2    comprises at least some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an end of  
3    block code.

1           20.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the processor examines a  
2   display item of highest priority and examines display items of lower priority to completely  
3   fill in the target item as a function of transparency of the highest priority display item.

1           21.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the processor examines a  
2   display item of highest priority (overlying display item) and examines underlying display  
3   items of lower priority at positions where control data of the overlying display item  
4   indicates transparency.

1           22.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the processor skips data at  
2   particular locations of lower priority display items when corresponding locations of higher  
3   priority display items are non-transparent.

1           23.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the target area associated with  
2   the target item extends from a leftmost pixel of a leftmost display item to a rightmost pixel of  
3   a rightmost display item for the plurality of display items being merged, the target area  
4   further comprising padding.

1           24.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the display items being  
2   merged comprise up to five ranges within the target area, the five ranges comprising left  
3   padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels from the padding to the  
4   display item to be merged, mid-object pixels, a transition defined across  $n$  pixels from the  
5   display item to be merged to right padding, and right padding of multiples of  $n$  pixels.

1           25.    (Canceled)

1           26.    (Original)    The system of claim 17, wherein the processor produces tokens  
2    using the encoded data associated with the display items to be merged, the processor merging  
3    the display items using the tokens.

1           27.    (Original)    The system of claim 26, wherein the tokens represent counts of  
2    repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the display items to be merged.

1           28.    (Original)    The system of claim 26, wherein the processor prioritizes the  
2    display items to define an arrangement of overlaying display items and underlying display  
3    items, the processor modifies the tokens into smaller tokens by use of underlying display  
4    items depending on tokens found in an overlaying item.

1           29.    (Original)    The system of claim 26, wherein the processor produces the  
2    tokens by decoding the encoded data associated with the display items to be merged.

1           30.    (Original)    The system of claim 29, wherein the processor re-compresses  
2    the tokens associated with the target item into the encoded format.

1           31-36. (Canceled)

1           37.   (Currently Amended) An information bearing medium comprising processor-  
2 readable instructions for merging display items in an encoded format, the processor-readable  
3 instructions causing a processor to perform the steps of:  
4                   providing, in the encoded format, a plurality of display items to be merged;  
5                   examining the display items on the basis of item priority;  
6                   defining a target item having a target area; ~~and~~  
7                   merging the display items in the target area according to item priority to  
8 produce the target item, the target item representative of the merged plurality of display  
9 items; and  
10                   aligning each of the display items relative to n pixel boundaries within the  
11 target area.

1           38.   (Original)    The medium of claim 37, wherein the encoded data associated  
2 with the display items to be merged comprises control data and color data, the control and  
3 color data comprising at least some of repeat data, pass-thru data, an end of scan code, and an  
4 end of block code.

1           39.   (Original)    The medium of claim 37, wherein examining the display items  
2 comprises examining a display item of highest priority and examining display items of lower  
3 priority to completely fill in the target item as a function of transparency of the highest  
4 priority display item.

1           40.    (Original)    The medium of claim 37, wherein examining the display items  
2   comprises examining a display item of highest priority (overlying display item) and  
3   examining underlying display items of lower priority at positions where control data of the  
4   overlying display item indicates transparency.

1           41.    (Original)    The medium of claim 37, wherein examining the display items  
2   comprises skipping data at particular locations of lower priority display items when  
3   corresponding locations of higher priority display items are non-transparent.

1           42.    (Original)    The medium of claim 37, wherein the target area associated  
2   with the target item extends from a leftmost pixel of a leftmost display item to a rightmost  
3   pixel of a rightmost display item for the plurality of display items being merged, the target  
4   area further comprising padding.

1           43.    (Canceled)

1           44.    (Original)    The medium of claim 37, further comprising producing tokens  
2   using the encoded data associated with the display items to be merged, wherein merging the  
3   display items further comprises merging the display items using the tokens.

1           45.    (Original)    The medium of claim 44, wherein the tokens represent counts of  
2   repeated data or pointers to pass-thru data associated with the display items to be merged.